

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 DUBLIN 00556 301757Z

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ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /031 W

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FM AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0000

INFO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS UNN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L DUBLIN 0556

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETRD, GATT, EEC, US, EI

SUBJ: GATT ARTICLE 24:6 NEGOTIATIONS

REF: STATE 086686

1. DCM BRIEFLY EVENING APRIL 29 AND ECON/COMOFF MORE EXTENSIVELY APRIL 30 REVIEWED STATUS ARTICLE 24:6 NEGOTIATIONS, AS INSTRUCTED STATE 86686, WITH BRIAN O'CEALLAIGH, DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY FONOFF ECONOMIC DIVISION. WE STRESSED THAT, WHILE EC COMMISSION PROPOSAL HELPFUL, IT WAS INSUFFICIENT AND MEMBER STATES SHOULD DEMONSTRATE POLITICAL WILL TO GO FURTHER TOWARD MEETING US REQUEST (USING LINE SPELLED OUT IN PARA 3 REFTEL). WE ALSO EMPHASIZED SPECIAL IMPORTANCE OF TOBACCO FOR US AND TO IRELAND (VAST MAJORITY OF IRISH TOBACCO IMPORTED FROM US), AND NOTED THAT US AND EC POSITIONS WERE VERY CLOSE ON THIS ITEM.

2. WE INDICATED WE HAD CONFLICTING REPORTS AS TO IRISH POSITION:

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PAGE 02 DUBLIN 00556 301757Z

A) THAT IRISH HAD PROBLEM WITH SOME BOVINE OFFALS, B) THAT IRISH

CAN ACCEPT EC COMMISSION PROPOSAL, AND C) THAT IRELAND WAS IN LINE WITH DENMARK, UK, FRG, AND NETHERLANDS IN SUPPORTING "BEST" POSSIBLE RESPONSE" TO US REQUEST. O'CEALLAIGH SAID BOVINE OFFALS PROBLEM RESOLVED SOME TIME AGO. HE SAID HE HAD NOT HAD TIME TO REVIEW 24:36 ISSUE CLOSELY RECENTLY, BUT HE BELIEVED THAT EC COMMISSION OFFER, IF IT COULD BE ACCEPTED BY ALL MEMBER STATES, PROBABLY WAS THE "BEST POSSIBLE RESPONSE" ATTAINABLE AT THIS STAGE TO US REQUEST. O'CEALLAIGH SAID AS FAR AS HE KNEW, IRELAND HAD NO PROBLEM WITH MOST RECENT US REQUESTS (THOUGH HE WOULD HAVE TO CHECK), VIEWED OUR POSITION SYMPATHETICALLY, BUT DID NOT BELIEVE THAT OPPOSITION BY OTHER STATES, ESPECIALLY GIVEN CURRENT STATE OF COMMUNITY, COULD BE OVERCOME. HE SAID HE WOULD LOOK INTO MATTER AGAIN AND COME BACK TO US IF HE HAD ANYTHING FURTHER TO SAY.

3. COMMENT: WHILE GOI CLEARLY FAVORS SETTLING 24:6 ISSUE AND CAN ACCEPT US REQUESTS, IT, LIKE OTHER FAVORABLE STATES, IS APPARENTLY RELUCTANT TO GET OUT IN FRONT AND PUSH FOR BETTER COMMISSION RESPONSE. OUR REPRESENTATIONS SHOULD AT LEAST KEEP THEM ON FAVORABLE WAVELENGTH AND, IF GROUNDSWELL DEVELOPS TOWARD GREATER ACCEPTANCE US REQUESTS, IRISH WILL PROBABLY HELP IT ALONG. WE WILL ATTEMPT TO REITERATE AT HIGHER GOVERNMENT LEVELS NEED TO DEVELOP POLITICAL WILL TO GO BEYOND CURRENT EC OFFER, IF AND WHEN OPPORTUNITIES ARISE. MOORE

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